

used in that capacity. I sincerely believe that it is a very laudable and a very worthwhile goal and, therefore, I ask for the bill and I would like to have the Legislature advance the bill to express our intent that if the boards decide that it is worthwhile in any way that they could use the funds in that manner. But we are not mandating that they do it that way. We are saying that if you decide you want to provide a grant to an alcohol plant to research the development, for example, of an edible protein, that they can do so. Under the present statute, the present language, there is a question as to whether or not the Legislature intended for that to happen.

SENATOR R. PETERSON: I cannot foresee that wheat and soybeans, especially, because they...we do not get much out of...alcohol out of that and it is mainly corn and I don't see...I think the only money or grants would probably come from the Corn Board and with that I have a question about this bill whether we should advance it. I think I will be opposing it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I rise, even though I am an urban senator, to support this bill because Senator Vickers made a statement that he thinks private enterprise ought to be doing it. If that is the case, I think we ought to do away entirely with the millions of dollars we have appropriated for economic development. But I don't agree with that philosophy. I think as an urban senator it behooves me to do everything I can to help agriculture because I listened to the Governor's speech here in this Chamber a week or so ago where he said, one out of every three jobs in the State of Nebraska are dependent upon agriculture. And while I don't have that much expertise in agriculture, I respect Senator Schmit's expertise and what he thinks is good for agriculture. I know that he is going to be looking out for the farmers throughout the state and for the industry as a whole. So in view of that, I would support this bill and I will yield the balance of my time to Senator Schmit.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Higgins, that is unnecessary. There are no further lights on. Would you care to close, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: (Microphone not activated)...Senator Higgins, I would just like to comment in regard to Senator Peterson's comments. The Wheat Board back in 1971 made